

## REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed June 25, 2007, the Examiner has required that the Applicants elect one of three patentably distinct inventions:

Group I (Claims 1-4);

Group II (Claims 5-15); and

Group III (Claims 16-22).

The Examiner has further required that the Applicants elect one of two patentably distinct species:

Species A (Fig. 2); and

Species B (Fig. 5).

The Office Action does not indicate which claims are considered to be generic.

In addition, claims 8-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants note that the status of claim 22 has not been addressed. In that claim 22 is dependent on claim 18, which is part of Group III, the Applicants make the assumption herein that claim 22 was intended to be part of Group III. Clarification of the status of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

### **I. Election**

As required under 35 U.S.C. 121, the Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute Group II (claims 5-15) on the merits. The Applicants further elect, without traverse, to prosecute Species A (Fig. 2, as represented by claim 9) on the merits, with the expectation that the nonelected species (claim 10) will be examined if a generic claim is found allowable. The Applicants believe that claims 5 and 8 are generic to the elected species. The elected claims are therefore claims 5-9 and 11-15. The Applicants further expressly reserve the right to prosecute the nonelected groups and the nonelected species in one or more subsequent divisional or continuation applications.

### **II. Claim Objections**

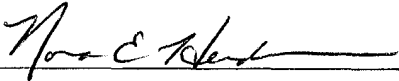
Claims 8-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because the multiple dependency is not recited in the alternative. The Applicants have amended each of claims 8-10 to replace the objected-to multiple dependency with the limitations previously

recited in the underlying claims. No new matter is added by these amendments, entry of which is therefore respectfully requested.

### **III. Conclusion**

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 10, and 16-22 have been withdrawn. Claims 8-10 have been amended. Claims 5-15 have been elected for prosecution on the merits, with the further election of species A (claim 9) and the expectation that the nonelected species (claim 10) will be examined if a generic claim is allowed. The Applicants believe that claims 5 and 8 are generic to the elected species. Should there remain any unresolved issues, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Norma E. Henderson, Applicant's Attorney, at 603-437-4400, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,



Norma E. Henderson

Attorney/Agent for Applicants

Reg. No. 39,219

November 26, 2007

Date

Henderson Patent Law

13 Jefferson Drive

Londonderry, NH 03053-3647

Tel/Fax: 603-437-4400

normahenderson@comcast.net